

MONTEREY NEWS

June 2004
VOLUME XXXIV • Number 6



The Town

Since longtime Select Board member Peter Brown retired at the end of April (he was duly honored at the annual Select Board dinner in early May), there has been a feeling of a changing of the guard in the Town Hall, including the building itself. Although the new Select Board meeting room is not ready yet, the other new offices are being occupied and are becoming functional. The finishing touches of coordinating phone communication and insuring computer compatibility are being overseen by the Select Board, which now includes Michael Storch, who won the seat left vacant by the retirement of Peter Brown after twelve years' service.

Building Permits

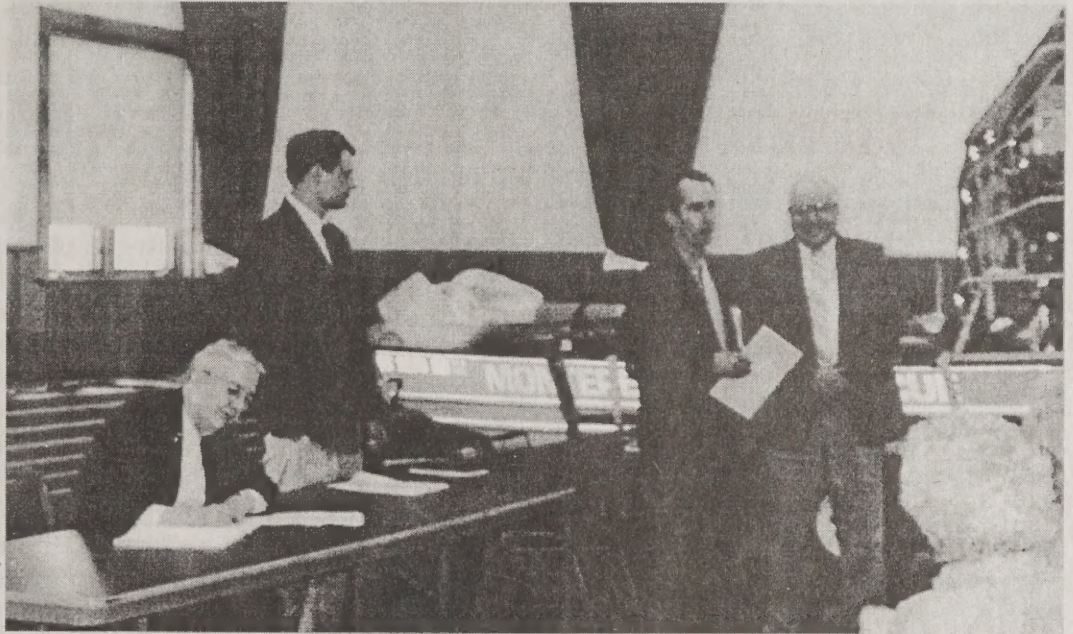
At the morning meeting of May 3, the Board went right to work, in particular addressing the matter of building permits. Along with looking at whether permits are being issued with proper authorizing signatures—there are no less than five boards and commissions that must give approval—the entire process was reviewed and discussed at length. Pending further investigation, several work stop orders were issued based upon observations of neighbors next to work sites that seemed to conflict with what was authorized and allowable.

Again at the meeting of May 10, the Select Board members resolved that proper procedure of building permit

applications and enforcement will be thorough and meticulously followed to prevent any further confusion and work stop orders, which cause problems for the town as well as the builders and their clients. To start off the new fiscal year beginning July 1, Donald Torrico will become Building Commissioner (the new title for the building inspector position) on a contractual basis hourly arrangement. His regular office hours will be on Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

New Office Hours for Tax Collector, Assessors

Monterey's newly elected Tax Collector, Mari Enoch, will have regular office hours in the new Town Offices on Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Glynis Oliver

At the May 1 Town Meeting, retiring four-term Selectman Peter Brown (r) received a State Legislative Award of Excellence from State Rep. Smitty Pignatelli as Town Clerk Barbara Swann recorded the event and Moderator Mark Makuc looked on.

The Assessors will have regular office hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until noon.

The Board of Health's regular meetings are now at 8 a.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month at the Town Hall.

Forbes Named Manager of Transfer Station

As the town grows, the Select Board is also focused on the operation and costs of the Transfer Station. Plans were already on the drawing board to make Director of Operations Maynard Forbes the business manager for various reasons, but mainly to improve on-site efficiency and be responsible for seeing that regulations will be followed. The appointment is now official and further changes affecting how the operation is financed may

very well be on the docket for the next budget year.

Scenic View Preserved

Then there was good news on May 17, when Fred Chapman of the Monterey Preservation Land Trust came in to review the proposal that 43 acres of scenic property adjacent to Lake Garfield be placed in a conservation restriction in perpetuity. The land belongs to David McAllester and is a little more than a mile east of the center of town, just past the hairpin turn on Rt. 23, known to some as Keyes' Corner. The beautiful panorama enjoyed by passersby, with a western vista of much of the lake, will be held in trust for future generations to enjoy, thanks to David.

Town Report

On May 24, the future of the Annual Town Report was reviewed by the Select

Board. Town Administrative Assistant. Bonnie Tedder-Jurgenson has suggested that a committee be formed, of which she would be a member, to help in gathering and organizing this important documentation of town business each year. The Board thinks that this is very advisable and will be proceeding to enlist volunteers, particularly anyone experienced in editing and publishing.

For Those Thinking about Building

A free booklet entitled "Building Your Highlands Home" is now available at the Town Hall, as long as supplies last. For newcomers who would invest in a new residence, the booklet outlines how to identify and protect rural character and the building site, planning for infrastructure, how to control the construction process, and how to plant in harmony with native species. Come in and pick up a copy, and while you are there visit the improved facilities. You may go forth with a firsthand impression that your town government is working to serve you better.

— George Emmons



The Annual Town Meeting

Saturday morning, May 1, saw Main Road America in its finest tradition of democracy in action at the Monterey Firehouse. No less than 300 Monterey citizens filed through the side door to voice their civic commitment at the 157th consecutive gathering since the town's founding in 1847. Promptly at 9:30 a.m. Moderator Mark Makuc brought down his gavel on the table, next to Town Clerk Barbara Swann, for the 21st time in his life, going back to 1983, which historically was the last year the meeting was held in the church basement. As some entered the voting booths, others participated in debate of proposed warrant articles, indicating their pleasure by raising pink cards. Have we come far, or just up the hill?

Voters approved the expenditure of \$30,000 for a new Town Shed roof, and \$5,000 for a mandated inspection of the Brewer Pond dam. In Public Safety related issues voters approved a new \$25,000 Police cruiser, but \$5,000 for a speed control indicator failed. Then the Fire Department got the spotlight with consideration of the article requesting \$50,000 to pay firefighters for training, attendance, and performance, in lieu of a tax exemption benefit. Monterey took a giant step forward with a wide majority voting to insure the future of First Responders.

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Monterey's \$861,050 share of the budget for the Southern Regional School District passed, and Superintendent Valerie Spriggs made a well-educated pitch for approval of Article 18, for an additional \$10,000 discretionary for unforeseen School District emergencies due to state budgetary shortages. Higher education won again, and the article passed after an amendment to require the Monterey Select Board's approval before its expenditure.

As mandated by The Mass. Municipal Association, a main responsibility of the Finance Committee is to oversee transfers from the Reserve Fund to provide cash flow for unexpected overages, and this amount was increased by overwhelming vote, from \$20,000 to \$30,000 to help insure sufficient funds for any unforeseen emergency.

The Town also voted to approve a quarterly tax billing, to provide a more constant flow of income.

Several articles were very controversial, particularly the request for a sum of \$500 for the purple loosestrife project for Brewer Pond, which was not recommended by those more environmentally sensitive. The Article passed nevertheless.



Glynis Oliver

Muriel Lazzarini speaking to an issue at the May 1 Town Meeting.

less. For such complicated issues, a handheld portable microphone should be available for future meetings so all speakers can be heard.

The Park Commission's request for a \$14,250 increase in budget for a new raft at the Town Beach and a new backstop for the Greene Park ballfield was approved.

Two hundred thousand dollars was approved for the Stabilization Fund, sometimes called the town "rainy day fund" to help stabilize the tax rate by drawing on the reserves when needed and approved. The estimated approximate total estate and property values are now near \$260 million, and growing by

at least 5 percent a year. This projection augurs for a much deeper well from which to draw revenue down the road, to be optimistic about continuing one of the lowest tax rates in the Commonwealth.

Peter Brown, retiring after completing his fourth term on the Select Board, was presented with a State Legislative Award of Excellence from State Representative Smitty Pignatelli for 12 years of dedicated service.

Erik Kristensen, the new Assessor was introduced to the gathering. His contractual commitment is for up to 20 hours per week. An Assessor Clerk will be employed to provide the additional administrative requirements. (over>)

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The Town Meeting itself ended in a little more than two hours, when Mark's gavel came down on the table with a loud finality, but the polls stayed open until 6:30, and the volunteer counters didn't get to go home until 9:30 p.m. The main blueprint of town government for the coming fiscal year was so established and the Firehouse was quiet, until the red engines standing outside at parade rest were fired up to back into their berths. When the portals were shut for the night, there was an air of official closure to what had transpired and how far we have come.

Town Election Results

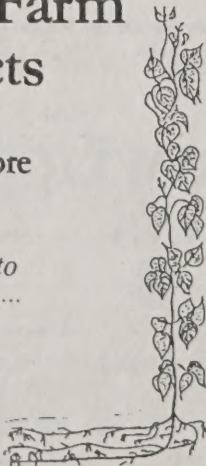
By a wide majority voters approved (179 to 72) the only ballot question, exempting from the provisions of Proposition 2½ the amount the town needs to purchase an Osh Kosh truck (\$218,521) and snowplow truck (\$70,000) for the Highway Department.

In the three contested races, Anne Marie "Mari" Enoch was elected Tax Collector, defeating Pat Mielke by 157 to 123, to fill the vacancy of her father, Henry Makuc, who served effectively and unfailingly for almost 33 years. Debra Mielke was elected to fill the vacancy on the Finance Committee left by the retirement of George Emmons, defeating Scott Jenssen by 144 votes to 130. In the contest for the two-year seat on the Planning Board, Elisabeth King won with 163 votes to Paula Moats' 81.

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NOTICE

from
Monterey Parks Commission

Due to the trash problems in parks, all trash cans are being removed from the parks in town. The new policy will be CARRY IN/CARRY OUT. The trash cans were there for the public's convenience but were being misused, not only by people using the parks but by passersbys to get rid of their trash, including home garbage. This problem has been going on for too many years. PLEASE REMEMBER, the town parks are your PARKS not your LANDFILL.

CARRY IN/CARRY OUT

Park Commission Chairman LeRoy E. Thorpe

In the uncontested races, Dean Amidon was reelected to the Board of Appeals; Stan Ross, Bob Gauthier, and Ricardo Boehm were elected to the Board of Assessors; Michael Storch was elected to fill the vacancy left by Peter Brown's retirement on the Select Board; Charles Mielke was elected to the Cemetery Commission; Joyce Scheffey was elected to the Planning Board; Bob Anelli was elected to the Board of Health; LeRoy Thorpe, Linda Mulvey, and Chandler Crawford were elected to the Park Commission; Anne Marie Makuc and Will Marsh were reelected as Library Trustees; Pat Mielke was reelected as Town Treasurer, as was Mark Makuc as Moderator, Roger Tryon as Tree Warden, and Ray Tryon as Constable.

— George Emmons

Heather Oakes to Speak on Treasures of Bidwell House

On Friday, June 25, at 7:00 p.m., the Monterey Historical Society is presenting an illustrated talk by Heather Oakes, Managing Director of the Bidwell House Museum in Monterey, on the history of the Bidwell House, a restored 1750 salt-box that was home to the first minister of Tyningham (part of which is now Monterey), Rev. Adonijah Bidwell. Some of the finest pieces of the museum's collection of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century antiques and decorative arts will be highlighted. There will also be a chance to learn about upcoming summer programs and volunteer opportunities. The talk will be held in the Knox Museum wing of the Monterey Library.

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Bidwell House Museum Opens for 2004 Season

The Bidwell House Museum re-opened its doors to the public for the 2004 season on Saturday, May 29. Built as the parsonage for Adonijah Bidwell, the "Old Manse," as it is known by many area residents, is an elegant Georgian saltbox built circa 1750 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Restored with meticulous attention to historical detail, the museum holds an impressive collection of high country furnishings and decorative arts of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Also part of the visitor experience are an eighteenth-century heirloom garden, period flower gardens, and hiking trails that cross through 196 acres of woods. Tours of the House will be offered Tuesday through Sunday, 11:00 to 4:00 p.m. For the first time this summer new interpretive tours on specific aspects of the collection will be given. Admission fees are \$6.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students and seniors, children under 12 are free.

A variety of programs are planned for the coming season, including three free concerts on the museum lawn. *Concerts on the Lawn*, funded in part by the Monterey and Great Barrington Cultural Councils, will showcase area performers of traditional music. The concerts will be free and families are encouraged to bring a picnic supper and enjoy an evening of fun and folk music. The concerts, scheduled for Wednesday evenings, June 23, July 7, and August 4,

will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will be preceded by tours of the museum at 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. A series of workshops, *Learning by Hand*, will be offered this summer and will include sessions on basket making, nature journaling, watercolor painting, and eighteenth-century cooking. There is a fee of \$35 for these workshops and preregistration is required. The first workshop, watercolor painting with Brian O'Grady, which will be limited to ten participants, will be held on Saturday, June 26, from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

On Saturday June 26, there will be a special "Chardonnay Soiree Summer Cocktail Party" to benefit the museum. The beautiful setting of the Bidwell House will also provide ample opportunity for outdoor events. A family day of early American games will offer children and their parents the opportunity to play nineteenth-century games, listen to storytellers, and see Heirloom farm animals. In the Heirloom Vegetable Garden a number of events are being planned, including a harvest festival and food tastings. Volunteers are always appreciated to help with the day-to-day chores of maintaining the garden.

Located in your own backyard, the Bidwell House is one of Berkshire County's finest examples of early New England history, and the house and grounds offer a unique glimpse of eighteenth-century colonial life. We look forward to seeing you this summer. For information on any program, please call 413-528-6888.

— Brian O'Grady

Bidwell House Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 6, 3–4:30 p.m.

Volunteer Docent Training.

Wednesday, June 23, 6–7:30 p.m.

Free concert on the Lawn: Traditional music of the British Isles.

Saturday, June 26, 12–3 p.m.

Learning by Hand Workshop: Watercolor Painting with Brian O'Grady. Limited to 10 participants. Must preregister. \$35 per person.

Saturday, June 26, 5–7 p.m.

A Chardonnay Soiree: Summer Cocktail Party to benefit the Bidwell House Museum.

Wednesday, July 7, 6–7:30 p.m.

Free Concert on the Lawn: The Flying Garbanzos

For information or to register, please call 413-528-6888.

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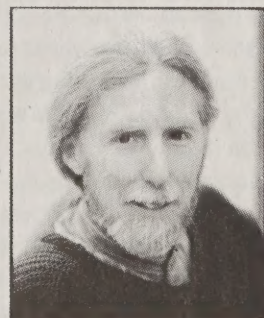
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Free Lawn Concert at Bidwell House Music from British Isles on June 23

The Bidwell House Museum will present the first in a series of free concerts on Wednesday, June 23, at 6:00 p.m. with A Summer Eventide of Music from the British Isles, featuring Pamela Wyn Shannon, guitarist and singer, and Mary Lea, fiddler. Evening-even-tide at Bidwell House with its pastoral views and beautiful sunsets provides the perfect setting to listen to the mystical music of the British Isles. Pamela and Mary will be joined by special guests to perform a compendium of music from the folk tradition, including bucolic British and Irish ballads, spirited Scottish songs, and American contra and English country dance tunes.

Pamela Wyn Shannon plays traditional songs from her Irish background as well as performing her original songs in the folk troubadour tradition. Her guitar playing has been described as "a tiny chamber orchestra working at the end of her hands," and Amazon.com writes, "The songs on Shannon's debut, Nature's Bride, contain the chill-up-the-spine essence that lay behind the finest of Celtic songsmiths." In addition to performing

her original compositions, Pamela has also performed, accompanied, and recorded with traditional Irish musicians including Solas, Kila, Lunasa, Whirligig, Cherish The Ladies, and the Afro-Celt Sound System.

Mary Lea has been playing violin for contra, English country, vintage, and couple dancing since 1978, performing nationally and internationally with such groups as Bare Necessities, Yankee Ingenuity, BLT, Dark Carnival and others. She is known for being proficient in a number of fiddle styles, whether playing

rhythmic Southern old-time tunes, lyrical English ones, or Irish and Scottish melodies.

Families are invited to bring a picnic supper and enjoy a tour of the house prior to the 6:00 p.m. performance. In the event of rain the concert will be rescheduled. Concerts on the Lawn are made possible through the Massachusetts Local Cultural Councils of Monterey and Great Barrington and the generosity of our members. For more information about this or any other program at the Bidwell House Museum please call 413-528-6888.



Michael Storch

The kitchen crew for Easter breakfast in church fellowship hall: (from left) Mary Kate Jordan, Paula Moats, Sally and Steve Pullen, Jan Ansbro.

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Wednesday 3-5 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m.-noon
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4th Annual "What the Heck is the Lake Garfield Association & Why Should I Give a Hoot?" Quiz.

1. The mission of the Lake Garfield Association (LGA, to friends) is:

- A. To make sure that those who violate Monterey zoning regulations are treated with strict adherence to the rules of the Geneva Convention.
- B. To form a beach group, to scoop loose goose poop. (Hey, move over Eminem—I do believe I'm rappin' . . .)
- C. To protect and preserve Lake Garfield for the Monterey community and to promote the health of the lake for swimming, boating, fishing, and scenic beauty. (If that seems like a worthy cause to you, and heaven knows it should, why not join our ranks. Visit our website at www.lakegarfield.org or call 413-528-8217.)
- D. To set up an oil rig alongside Tyringham Road to drill for offshore petroleum.
- E. All of the above, except A, B & D.

2. Purple Loosestrife is . . .

- A. That big, fat, annoying dinosaur on the Disney Channel.
- B. A weed that aggressively invades and rapidly degrades wetlands, alters the ecosystem and has a negative impact on

indigenous plants, fish, birds, and mammals—and it's currently taking hold at Brewer Pond.

- C. The macho twin brother of Lavender Loosestrife.
- D. What your stomach feels full of, just before you toss your cookies.
- E. None of the above, except B.

3. What is *Galerucella Calmariensis*?

- A. The Monterey General Store's new takeout special, a tasty pasta dish made with braised squid and a ton of garlic.
- B. The real name of the actor who plays Tony Soprano.
- C. An opera by the composer, Pietro Mascagni, often performed on a double bill with *Pagliacci*.
- D. A beetle that eats nothing but purple loosestrife, 5,000 of which are being imported by LGA to do their thing on Brewer Pond.
- E. All of the above, except for those answers designated by the first three letters of the alphabet.

4. LakeFest is . . .

- A. A Quentin Tarrantino flick, in which renegade water-based extraterrestrials take over an inner city shopping center.
- B. A word made up by a desperate poet who needed a rhyme for "breakfast."
- C. LGA's gala end-of-summer celebration at the Town Beach for the whole town of Monterey, with events, crafts, games, food, music, boat rides, fireworks and FUN for all, on August 28th.
- D. A reunion to be held this summer in Toole, Utah, which will be attended by the 2,157 living descendants of the patriarch Josiah Lake.
- T. A drink with bread and jam. (Ba-da-bing!)

Mad Scot

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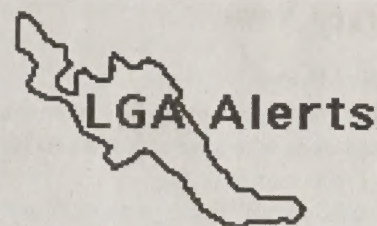
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Summer Meeting Schedule

9:30 a.m. at the Firehouse
June 19, July 17, August 14

LakeFest 2004

August 28
(rain date August 29)

Keep in touch and informed

Web Site: lakegarfield.org

Email:

information@lakegarfield.org
PO Box 355

5. Important LGA dates to stick on your fridge this summer are:

- A. July 14, when Monterey residents reenact the storming of the Bastille.
- B. LGA meetings at 9:30 a.m. at the Firehouse on June 19, July 17, and August 14, and LakeFest on August 28.
- C. My birthday.
- D. August 17, the 59th anniversary of Indonesia proclaiming itself independent from the Netherlands.
- E. My birthday.

Answers:

1. C or E; 2. B or E; 3. D or E; 4. C; 5. B.

If you scored under 60%, you can blame Harriet Harvey & Hy Rosen for this quiz.

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Library News

Summer Events

The Monterey Library is planning a series of storytelling and crafts events for Saturday mornings in July.

On July 10 at 10 a.m. at the Library, Jay Mankita will present "The Day the Library Went Wild," a concert for children featuring songs and stories about wild animals, wilderness, and the wild human being inside of us. The children will participate through singing and guessing along, sign language and hand movements taught during the show, and plenty of animal noises, including the creation of a vocal rainforest.

On Saturday, July 17, at 10 a.m. Monterey's own Alice O. Howell will read from her funny and wise *The Beejum Book*, in a program appropriate for children of all ages above seven.

Details for the July 3 and July 24 events are still being worked out and will be reported in the July issue of the *News*. For more information call the Library, 528-3795.

The annual used book sale will be held on Saturday, July 31.

Other News

Over the years, people have made donations to our library—in memory of someone or just as a thank you for service. We have been able to use these donations for our office addition and for the bench on the front lawn. This year we purchased and installed a flagpole light and a sign that is in keeping with other town signs.

We thank the contributors for making these things possible and hope that you enjoy seeing the library property enhanced.

We are looking for someone to work on Saturday mornings during the summer when we really need two people to serve you. This is a paid position. Please ask at the library for more details.



Fishing Derby



Free



for children 12 years & under
Saturday, June 26, 9-11 a.m.

Berkshire Fish Hatchery
Hatchery Rd., New Marlborough, Mass.

Directions

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From Rt. 23 in Monterey take River Rd.

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&

Berkshire Hatchery Foundation Inc.



At the last Derby a 23½ inch Brown Trout
won 1st Place

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Cultural Council Plans Community DanceFest

The Monterey Cultural Council will be hosting an evening of community music and dance on Saturday, September 4 (Labor Day weekend), so be sure to mark the event on your calendars now.

Stay alert for notices to follow in the *Monterey News* and on posters around town, but the present version of the plan is:

6 p.m.: Community potluck supper at the Firehouse Pavilion with musical accompaniment;

7-8:30: Community Contradance with a community band (any musicians who want to volunteer to be part of this) and caller Joe Baker;

8:30-8:45: Concert by Monterey children between the ages of 8 and 14;

9:00 on: Community boogie dance—we are working on an agreement with a local band that plays R & B to rock.

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Selection of Recent Arrivals at the Monterey Library

Adult Fiction

Ian Caldwell, *Rule of Four*
 Judy Clemens, *Till the Cows Come Home*
 Lindsey Davis, *The Accusers: A Marcus Didius Falco Mystery Novel*
 Robert Elmer, *Duet: A Novel*
 Karen Fowler, *The Jane Austen Book Club*
 Olivia Goldsmith, *Dumping Billy*
 Susan Howatch, *Heartbreaker: A Novel*
 Jonathan Kellerman, *Therapy*
 Sophie Kinsella, *Can You Keep A Secret*
 William Lashner, *Past Due*
 Chang-Rae Lee, *Aloft*
 Elizabeth Peters, *Guardian of the Horizon*
 Sue Rann, *Looking for Mr. Nobody*

Children/Young Adults

Eric Carle, *Mister Seahorse*
 Harold Holzer, *The President is Shot: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*
 Lois Lowry, *Messenger*
 Mary P. Osborne, *Summer of the Sea Serpent*

Adult Nonfiction

Ed Cray, *Ramblin Man: The Life and Times of Woody Guthrie*
 Sally Jenkins, *Funny Cide: How a Horse, a Train, a Jockey, and a Bunch of High School Buddies Took on the Sheiks and Blue Bloods...and Won*
 Larry King, *Why I Love Baseball*
 Mary Oliver, *Why I Wake Early: New Poems*

Green Corner: The Ecological Lawn

Did you know that a 1/2-acre lawn in New England produces over 3 tons or nearly 260 bags of grass clippings each year? Think of all the time, money, and effort it takes to bag all those clippings when it's really not necessary.

You can have a healthy green lawn by leaving grass clippings where they fall! Grass clippings left on the lawn will decompose and act as a natural organic fertilizer. Valuable nutrients are returned to the soil and the need for commercial fertilizer is reduced.

Mowing techniques and tips:

- * Any mower can recycle grass clippings. Simply remove the grass catcher! Ask your lawn mower dealer if a special safety plug or adapter kit is needed to convert your mower into a "recycling" mower. You can also have a mulching blade installed.
- * Keep your grass mowed to 2"-3" high.
- * Do not remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade in any single mowing. For example, if your lawn is kept at 2" tall,

it should not be allowed to grow higher than 3" before it is mowed again.

- * Mow when the grass is dry.
- * Keep your mower blade sharp. Dull mowers tear the grass blade, injuring the plant, and create a brownish cast to the turf.
- * If the grass gets just a bit too high, simply mow over the clippings a second time to further shred and scatter them.
- * If excessive growth occurs between mowings, raise the mower height, mow and then gradually lower it over a span of several mowings. This will help prevent shock to the plants.
- * When it's time to replace your mower, consider buying a mulching, recycling, or nonpolluting reel mower.

This information was obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection, www.mass.gov/dep/consumer/dtg.htm. For more information about grass recycling, composting, or other waste management questions, contact the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) at 1-800-238-1221 or www.cetonline.org.

— Joy Kirschenbaum
 Waste Management Specialist, CET

Charles Schulz, *Complete Peanuts, 1950 to 1952*

Jane Smiley, *A Year at the Races: Reflections on Horses, Humans, Love, Money, and Luck*

Curt Supplee, *The New Everyday Science Explained*

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Triple Play at Sandisfield Arts Center June 5

On Saturday, June 5, at 8 p.m., the trio of Chris Brubeck, Joel Brown, and Peter "Madcat" Ruth returns to the Sandisfield Arts Center in a performance to benefit the Bill Crofut Arts Fund for Children. Known as Triple Play, the group's accomplished musicians bring a rare level of virtuosity and American spirit to the folk, blues, jazz, and classical music they perform. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

The trio has toured and recorded together in various combinations since 1969, first as young rock musicians, then as jazz musicians touring the world with Dave Brubeck, and, more recently, performing Chris's symphonic arrangements with orchestras across the U.S. In 2001, Chris Brubeck's "Concerto for Bass Trombone" was played by the Boston Pops and nationally televised on the PBS series, "Evening at Pops."

Guitarist Joel Brown, is Artist-in-Residence at Skidmore College and appears as concerto soloist with orchestras such as the Hartford Symphony and the Martinu Chamber Orchestra. Peter "Madcat" Ruth has established an international reputation through his riveting expertise on the harmonica. *Performance Magazine* refers to him as "A harmonica virtuoso who is rapidly approaching legend status." The versatile Chris Brubeck plays electric bass, bass trombone, and

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PROJECT NATIVE cultivates over 100 varieties of organically grown native perennials, including wildflowers, ferns, grasses, wetland species, deer-proof plants, and more.

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Adding native plants to your garden not only enhances your landscape, but also helps to support wild ecosystems. Our horticultural staff is available to talk to you about garden goals, problems, and aspirations.

PROJECT NATIVE is a 501(c)3 nonprofit program of the Railroad Street Youth Project. We work in partnership



Glynis Oliver

with the Nature Conservancy and the Berkshire Natural Resources Council.

piano. All three musicians performed with the late Bill Crofut over the last several decades. In 1992, their recording "Red, White & Blues" won Album of the Year at the Berkshire Music Awards.

This outstanding evening of music is a fitting tribute to the memory of Bill Crofut and his enthusiastic support of children and of the arts. The Sandisfield

Arts Center is located on Hammertown Road off Route 57 in Sandisfield. Known for its historic significance (it was once a Baptist Meetinghouse and orthodox synagogue) the 1839 building is now appreciated for its original architecture, great acoustics, and small-town charm. For more information, visit www.sandisfieldartscenter.org or call 413-258-4994.

Peter S. Vallianos Attorney at Law 528-0055

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News From Beacon Hill: Marriage Rights

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the recent debate regarding marriage rights and our state constitution. For the better part of my first term in office as your state representative, this issue of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts has been on the forefront of many constituents' concerns. I have carefully reviewed hundreds of phone calls, e-mails, and letters and listened to more than forty hours of heartfelt debate offered by my colleagues in the legislature. The entire process placed the most valued fundamentals of our representative democracy on a worldwide stage. It was engaging and sincere, and I am honored to have been a part of it. The process, which began well before the Supreme Judicial Court ruled last November that to deny same-sex couples the right to marry was unconstitutional, has been a long one. The journey before us remains longer still. The most recent decision made jointly by the House and Senate to amend the Commonwealth's constitution to keep marriage defined as being between one man and one woman, while allowing for civil unions, must be put to a second vote during next year's legislative sea-

son and if passed will be subject to a statewide referendum in 2006.

My personal journey throughout this debate has been referred to as an evolution, as my ultimate decision developed gradually over the past several months. Through contact with individuals on both sides of this issue, intense research, reviewing the facts, listening to many different beliefs and with much honest soul searching, I believe I came to an informed decision. My decision to vote against this amendment was based on many things; most notably, the concerns offered by the citizens of the Fourth Berkshire District, the laws of our great Commonwealth, and the principles on which I delivered my maiden speech before the Convention on March 11th. My "evolution" brought me to an unmistakable conclusion: We are all different, yet so much the same. Moreover, we are all entitled to equal rights under the law. Writing a ban on same-sex marriage into our cherished constitution and thereby denying one group of human beings anything less than exact equal rights and benefits would have established a tier of second-class citizens. If I voted for that, I would not have been doing the job that my constituents elected me to do.

As I mentioned before, this debate is ongoing. I look forward to continuing to hear from my constituents on this or any

Democrats Meet June 11 to Plan for General Election

The Monterey Democratic Town Committee will be hosting a meeting on Friday, June 11 at 7 p.m. in the Meeting-house basement. All Democrats, Independents, Dissatisfied Republicans, summer residents and year-round residents who believe that a Democratic victory in November is important are welcome. We need you to brainstorm and help us to make plans for summer and fall activities that will help elect John Kerry in November. For more information you may contact Muriel Lazzarini, Chair, Monterey Democratic Town Committee at 528-5796 or at malazz@map.com.

other issue. If you have further questions regarding the recent vote taken by the legislature or concerning this important process, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at Rep.SmittyPignatelli@house.state.ma.us or phone (Boston) 617-722-2582, (District) 243-5534.

— State Rep. Wm. Smitty Pignatelli



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The Father: Aegeus prays for Theseus

*Like all fathers
I shall seat myself
upon the high cliffs of expectation
to watch the black sails of my hope and anguish
set forth to unknown transits
beyond my dreams and reaching -
bone and blood
son of my giving
sired in a time of promise
fruit of a night of needing
fair in my sight and sturdy
to hand you my all, my all
the trust of future days and other triumphs!*

*Here at cliff's edge
my power ends. Stops, drops
to the foaming depths
of such uncertainty*

*final, that last lifting of the rope
wet with the tears of the sea
the strong coiling spring of twine
that bound a past so happy and secure
is cast upon a scoop of prouder ship
rocking, but for now, in placid waters*

*A rough handshake
cold now in my empty palms
your golden shoulder turning
the brave shouts, danger daring*

*then you and the rest of them off to Crete
a sacrificial tithe
to the man-killer Minotaur*

*May the shield I offered be sufficient
may the sword you earned defend!
I have done all, without the gods, I could
but not enough.*

*You are forth where I will never walk
your feet will break those grasses
not yet grown until my death
the wine-dark sea will hold you like an angry mother
and I will climb again, weary
with the old bones of insufficient time
or wisdom
to sit upon the cliffs
of all the mornings not yet born
to wait and pray
secretly
without the pride of kings
to watch
until the sea returns you
until with triumph you may change
those sails of my dread, black,
of my helplessness
to white, my son,
O, my son, my son
to white!*

— A. O. Howell

Ithaca At Last

"And then, that hour the star rose up,
the clearest, brightest star, that always
heralds the newborn light of day, the
deep-sea-going ship made landfall on
the island ... Ithaca at last."

—Homer, *The Odyssey*

*It started with an apple,
and ended with a horse.
A daughter of Zeus,
launching this Trojan fleet.
Perhaps we all have our Helens,
those that we'd send
a thousand ships to save —
when you've lost the most precious,
there's nothing
the gods may steal.*

*Past temptations and snares
are winds for the voyage,
set sail and seek your love's delight —
for is not dying
the only promise, written
upon a journey's end?
We must find a way to be the scribes
for all which lies between.*

*And what is "myth"
if you have met Cyclops in his lair, &
tasted the Siren's scream?
There is no mistake in returning
to the island of youth,
meeting 'self' with new eyes.
The fable of error, forgetting
what might have been —
before clouds wept and
we embarked on this Odyssey.*

*When Sirens beckoned
he promised torment's end,
"Lash yourself to the deck.
Listen close.
There is one fair voice,
calling you home."*

*The sky shrieked in scarlet
and I am jumping —
wisteria waters,
boil above my head
'til a song sings clear
of new dreams to heed
and bright wings
rising free —*

Ithaca at Last.

— M. Hamilton

Making Friends with Nettles

Here in the soggy northeast where the rain comes down in buckets lately with large doses of electricity and clamor, plants are growing. Look at the new growth at the end of a white pine branch and you may be amazed to see six or eight inches of "candle" there. If you have a lawn, you know you have been knocking down the plant biomass whenever you can, between thunderbolts.

At the same time that we are cutting and thrashing at some of the plants, we are of course coddling and coaxing others. My spindly broccoli seedlings that survived an indoor childhood marred by nibbling mice and careless cats are finally settling into their garden beds, much guarded by cutworm collars and plastic-milk-bottle cloches, or private greenhouses.

I go out in the orchard every morning and put in an hour or so with the scythe, slicing down the tall grass and many fine wildflowers which I later bundle over to the garden to use as mulch. I am piling up the plant matter in thick layers to keep weed seedlings from sprouting up to challenge my champs: those ratty little broccolis.

With the help of muscle and steel I am making that patch of dirt do what I want, plantwise, but it is a tough fight. I wonder how many more years I can have my way out there. I am starting to look around at the native plants, the ones that have been here all along, to see if there is some broccoli substitute.

Sure enough, there is. Right under my nose there is a strong green plant, already three feet tall and gaining. Not only is it delicious to eat, but just about every part of it can be made into some fabulous medicine that will cure everything from asthma to prostate cancer. You can drink tea from this plant and feel invigorated, young again, cheerful. As if this were not enough, you can make rope, cloth, and paper from its fibers.

This is the nettle. Pick nettles now while the leaves are tender and steam them like spinach. Be careful, wear gloves,

and don't be tempted to chop up the whole stalk because those fibers won't chew up. They are better for rope. You do not have to worry about the sting of stinging nettles because it is changed completely by heat, also by drying. After you



Nettle - heavily ribbed stalk, still wilts soon after picking.

have tried them as steamed greens, you might like making nettle beer. I have a recipe from 1670 which I plan to try. It includes ginger, dandelion flowers, lemon, sugar, and yeast. I am thinking about substituting maple syrup for brown sugar.


If we find we adore nettles, we can dig up some roots and put them in the

cellar for the winter, in tubs of dirt, and they will send up blanched shoots which we can cut and cook to get us through the dark times.

I hope you can find some of this wonder plant because it has certainly cheered me up lately. When I get ready to liberate myself from traditional gardening and quit my exhausting cutting, bashing, and yanking, I will be turning to nettles for all that ails me. I can wear clothes made of nettle cloth, sip nettle tea, eat a main course of nettle greens (by the way they are 10 percent protein!), and write my column for the *Monterey News* on nettle paper. I can't believe I got this far in life without nettles as friends. I can even help others with my nettles: to cure a fever (not even my own) I just have to pluck up a nettle plant by the roots while reciting the names of the sick person and her or his parents.

Broccoli, I have been chopping weeds for you, hauling compost, picking rocks. I have set up grow-lights and mousetraps, kept you safe from cutworms, and fretted when the nights got chilly. You are tasty but you don't know how to take care of yourself, and I am starting to wonder if our relationship is good for either of us. Some people will say I am disloyal, dazzled by my new friends the nettles. I say many people have a hard time knowing when to let go; nettles can help make this clear.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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Mime Artist at Sandisfield Arts Center June 27

On Sunday, June 27, at 2 p.m., mime artist Robert Rivest will present an original program called "Healthy Choices" at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Admission is free, thanks to underwriting by Berkshire Bank, the Fitzpatrick family's High Meadow Foundation, and the Sandisfield and Monterey Cultural Councils.

"Healthy Choices" is a fun, high-energy program highlighting the value of awareness and perspective in making choices. This program helps children become aware of the choices they make and encourages them to develop lifelong skills in making mindful choices. Rivest engages his audience with comic stories of the choices we all face everyday. His masterful presentation and humorous insights connect deeply with children and teens. The focus of Robert's program is leading students to make clear, mindful choices about food, exercise, entertainment, and safety. Even the "too cool for the planet" older kids eagerly participate

in Robert's interactive stories and comic improvisations.

Rivest is one of the most prolific mime artists in the world. He has created over 120 original movement works for television, schools, libraries, museums, symphonies, and dance-theater ensembles. A former student of Marcel Marceau, Rivest has trained for over ten years with internationally renowned masters of mime, dance, theater, and improvisation and has presented over 4,000 performances in eleven countries in Europe, Africa, and across the U.S. He has also directed and acted in award-winning cable television specials, and received national television exposure through his *Heinz Family Works* appearances.

The Sandisfield Arts Center is located on Hammertown Road, off Route 57 in Sandisfield. For more information, visit www.sandisfieldartscenter.org or call 413-258-4157.

Monterey Postmaster Resigns

Pat Hamling resigned as Monterey Postmaster in mid May. Bob Winterbottom is serving as temporary Postmaster until a permanent replacement is selected.

June Events in the Highlands

Introduction to Reading Site Plans

Volunteer board members are frequently expected to review complicated plans and engineer drawings, and need to visualize how these plans will look and function when built. **On June 9, at 7 p.m. at Granville Town Hall**, the Highland Communities Initiative is sponsoring an interactive, hands-on workshop that will teach participants the fundamentals in interpreting and conceptualizing technical plans. Join us as we review different types of plans, including site, subdivision, drainage, and roadway improvement plans, or bring your own plans that you need some assistance analyzing. This workshop is free, but registration is required.

Tour of Becket Quarry

This walking tour with Ken Smith, president of the Becket Land Trust, will be held on **Saturday, June 19**, and will explore the unique history and remains of the Becket Quarry. We'll learn about the efforts underway to create an interpretive exhibit of the historical resources, including artifact restoration and research. The two-hour walk begins at 10 a.m. and is free, but donations are requested.

To register for either event, contact Wendy Sweetser by phone at 413-587-0716 x14 or e-mail, wsweetser@ttor.org.

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Spring Notes

Early May

It is May and still cold with only intermittent days of warmth. The sun seems to have forgotten us in the western part of Massachusetts even as it shines in other nearby places: even the flowers are confused.

My daffodils started to bloom in a warm sheltered spot in April—it happens every year—and then one cold night and they realize that they need to go back to sleep for awhile. Their heads droop (just as I sometimes do when overcome with fatigue) and they close their petals, waiting for the real spring to arrive.

I saw my first bluebird flitting here and there in between sightings of the first robins; while the trees are still bare their bright plumage is a sight that warms even the most blasé among us. I hope they realize that there is a lovely birdhouse just put up for them.

Cleaning up the leftover leaves from the fall uncovers the beginning shoots of spring flowers and herbs. What a surprise to discover that some of my pansies came back, as well as my curly and flat leaf parsley. I always thought parsley was an annual and it truly is most often, but in a



Edie Ross

few weeks some of it will be ready to garnish those wonderful barbecue plates.

And, not to be forgotten—time to dust off that camera that has infrared film from the fall. I need bright sunlight to make my ghostly, ethereal images and await the first day that the leaves are out on the trees and the light is just right. Soon!

Mid May

Summer is here even though we barely had time to visit spring! The daffodils are almost gone, as are the wild violets. But, I have enjoyed seeing my lawn covered with violet blue flowers mixed in among the yellow heads of the dandelions. Too soon the violets are gone.

The dandelions are wonderful harbingers of the summer to come: a much maligned flower (weed?). There are whole sections of garden centers devoted to the eradication of this yellow flower. Rooting them out has become a national pastime with the use of chemicals, weed killers, diggers, and the like.

However, the next time you are anywhere there is an expanse of land take

time to really look and you will see a wonderful carpet of yellow amongst the green. They are truly one of the miracles that herald the reawakening of the earth after it's long winter nap. Then—more wonders—they change! Suddenly their yellow gives way to fluffy white wisps of puff. They are soon airborne and if we are attentive we can see them fly up and away to another field or place!

Children have always known the wonder of the metamorphosis of the dandelion—blowing their seed pods, having them tickle our faces and hands, and then suddenly they are gone with the expelling of one long breath. "A strong wind can carry these little parachutes miles away from the parent plant" (see www.smm.org for more information). They are truly a wondrous plant.

So take a moment from your busy lives, take a child in hand and he or she will introduce you to one of the wonders of our world.

— Edie Ross



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Give the Next Postmaster a Chance, Please

To the Editor:

As many of your readers may now know, Pat Hamling has resigned from the Postmaster position in Monterey. This was caused in part by a documented case of sexual harassment, and in part due to her growing unhappiness with the job. Please consider the following facts and give the next Postmaster the courtesy and respect he or she probably deserves.

Fact—Walter was the undisputable epitome of a small town Postmaster. He freely dispensed cheer, comedic replies, and smiles. He will always be remembered in a positive way. The person following Wally was probably doomed from the start because of this. Pat never had a chance.

Fact—Walter had Pat as his assistant on a continuous and consistent basis for many years. Together they made a great team. Together they had the town covered in the knowledge of which piece of mail went to whom.

Fact—Since Pat was inducted as Postmaster she has only had temporary aid based on availability of other post offices to lend help. She has done an amazing job of getting the mail out on

time primarily by herself; she is an extremely skilled and speedy processor.

Fact—The United States Postal Service is now a business like any other and has to be profitable to survive. Monterey's post office is now fiscally responsible for its bottom line. If it loses money the Postal Service will shut it down. Don't think it can't happen, it can and has. A very simple example of an income-losing procedure and one that Pat had taken verbal abuse and snide remarks about many times is post office box rents. If someone does not pay the box rent and it is allowed to flow into the following month and the month after that, etc., by the time the person does pay up he or she has been given months of free box rent. More importantly the post office has lost months of revenue. The number of people paying continually late were considerable. Pat has consistently followed procedure, which has not gone over well. I think if we consider the ramifications of not following procedures we will agree it is worth some slight inconvenience to follow them instead.

Fact—Those nasty little stickers or stamped messages on your mail (please notify sender of proper address and such) were actually a gift from Pat to you. In the event that Pat was not on duty the temporary workers cannot process your mail if they don't know where it goes. Names

don't mean anything to them, they just do not know who Grammy and Grampy Bill are. Be prepared to see an enormous slowdown in the amount of time it takes to get the mail done each day as well as in the amount of returned-to-sender mail. You were cautioned.

Fact—There is a flow to the mail and this is it: Truck comes and is unloaded, the next half hour of precious closed window time is spent frantically sorting through the express and priority packages (of which Monterey gets plenty), then first class is started in the sorting process. First class must get broken down before the route carrier from Barrington gets there (about 10:00 a.m.) so that he can continue with the mail to all of you on the east side of the post office. And then the Monterey mail can be actually sorted into the appropriate boxes. The average time that was usually done by was 10:30, 12:00 is the time set by the District. Don't expect to see that again for a while.

Fact—Pat adhered strictly to postal privacy issues. Once again she received a lot of backlash for this. We should thank her for refusing to give out a box number or the fact that a person even had a box or not. In this world of stalkers, disgruntled employees, ex-spouses, etc., this is a good procedure.

Fact—It is better to not get an article of mail put in your box by guessing
(over >)

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than have your personal mail get to someone else in error because they have the same last name. The sanctity of the seal means the envelope is for the addressee only; so much of our mail says so much about our private lives. Your sexual preference, religion, possible illness, trust funds held, stock portfolios held, even which stocks you invest in can all be alluded to by the mail you receive. I'm sure you do not want someone else with the same name getting your mail; use your box number and the chance of that will be lessened. Keep that in mind when extra time is taken to properly identify the addressee.

These are just a few of the many facts you may or may not be aware of. The point is that the postal office is run by policies and procedures, not necessarily personnel. We need to work with the next Postmaster to enable him/her to maintain efficiency and stay at the post long enough to establish a working knowledge of the townspeople.

I believe we have lost a skilled Postmaster in losing Pat. I also believe we have the power to run out the next one and the next one and down the line if we do not give the person who is assigned the proper respect for the job they do, the care for our privacy they give and acceptance of postal procedures to enable the job to be done in an expedient and efficient manner.

Please give the next one a chance.

— Debbie Mielke

Lake Garfield Users Asked to Respect Private Property

To the Editor:

The land on the south side of the Lake Garfield, from Kinne's Grove west for one-half mile, including Bull Head Rock and Parker's Cove, is posted private property. Those that thought that this is public land or a park are misinformed. This property has been in our family for 109 years and for the past fifty years has been posted private. Because of repeated abuse it now becomes necessary to publish a public warning. Trespassers will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent.

The Thorn Family, Bracken Brae Farm

A Good-bye (for now) to Monterey

Ten years ago, I came to the Berkshires and soon found myself in Monterey. These hills have become as close to "home" as any place I've ever known. Now each peak and crevice cradle treasured memories. As I am packing for a new life, I wish to say "good-bye."

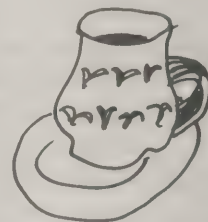
I am grateful to Gould Farm for providing me with a vocation and community for seven years, for the Fish Hatchery for believing in a dream, for *Monterey News* and other papers for giving my writing a chance, and to

Brookbend—a great place to find inspiration for the pen.

There is much to miss in leaving; especially those neighbors and friends that I wish would fit in my suitcase too . . . alongside still morning canoes on Lake Garfield, the friendly banter in the post office, warm smells in the General Store, the summer parade, potlucks at the Monterey Meetinghouse, snow on the hatchery tents, an evening coffeehouse at Roadside, the waterfall behind the library, and skating at the rink.

This is a special town, as those who live here could attest. It follows all the ebbs and flows of life, yet can be a respite from another world. May it continue to be a place people are proud to call "home," where youth can thrive, the elderly are cherished, and families and can live out their days in peace.

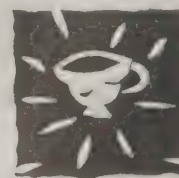
— M. Hamilton



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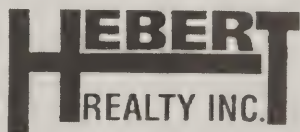


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courtesy Hilary Somers Deely

Remembering Alice Burlington Somers "The Monterey Mushroom Hunter"

Alice Burlington Somers of Lake Placid, Florida, and Monterey died at her home in Florida on Monday, May 10, 2004. A noted amateur mycologist, Mrs. Somers spent many years in the Berkshires and, with her husband, Arthur S. Somers II, purchased "Rock Ridge," an estate in Monterey on Lake Garfield built

in 1899 and once owned by Mr. Somers' grandfather. Mrs. Somers founded "The Merry Mushroomers of Monterey" and, just two days before her death, rejoiced to learn that the morel mushrooms were up in the Berkshires. Following Mr. Somers' death in 1999, Mrs. Somers remained in Florida year round.

Mrs. Somers was born September 18, 1920, in Montvale, New Jersey, to Harry J. Burlington and Ella A. Mauchet. Mrs. Somers graduated from The School of the Holy Child in Suffern New York, received her BA from Rosemont College in 1940, and, in

the same year, married Arthur S. Somers II, then a Lieutenant in the US Marine Corps. Rosemont College recently inducted her into the its Athletic Hall of Fame. For many years she and Mr. Somers spent weekends in the Berkshires commuting from their home in Rockleigh, New Jersey. Her siblings, five brothers and one sister, predeceased her.

Mrs. Somers leaves three daughters and one son: Pamela Somers of New York City, Cynthia Koepfel of Rockleigh, N.J., Arthur S. Somers III of Ashville, N.C., and Hilary Somers Deely of Stock-

Remembering Herman Transport

Herman Transport died in New York on April 16 at the age of 79. He is survived by his wife, Natalie, of 52 years; his sons, Ira and Mark; daughter-in-laws Robyn and Meryl; and adoring and adored grandchildren, Zachary, Annie, and Jillian. Transport was a WWII Veteran of the Army Air Corps, a tail gunner in a B29 bomber. His son Ira Transport has had a home in Monterey for over twenty years.

bridge, Mass. In addition she leaves four grandchildren, Jessica Koepfel of San Jose, Calif., Hilary Somers of Palo Alto, Calif., Mary Sedgwick Deely of New York City, and Philip L. S. Deely of Stockbridge, Mass., and a great grandson Poshu Ng of Palo Alto, Calif.

Funeral services for Mrs. Somers were held at Our Lady of The Hills Chapel in Monterey on Saturday, May 22. Memorial donations may be made to "Our Lady of The Hills Chapel Restoration Fund" c/o Finnerty and Stevens Funeral Home Great Barrington, MA 01230, 413-528-1900.

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Alice Burlington Somers and Monterey

If you were lucky enough to be a friend of Alice Somers your life was certainly enriched. Alice shared her warmth, her love of all humanity, her intellect (after all, how many of us can remember or spell the Latin names of all those mushrooms she collected and identified for us Merry Mushroomers?). But above all it was her spirituality, which, although deeply bound to her own Roman Catholicism, she embraced on so many levels. She invited us to enjoy with her the Native American love of the Earth, the mysticism of Yoga, the ecumenical Third World Order, and just plain everyday goodness.

She experienced life to its fullest: as a child in the Burlington family, school-girl at Holy Child, student at Rosemont College, wife of wartime pilot Arthur Somers, mother of four and grandmother of four. And as she traveled those paths she made deep friendships that were lifetime commitments. Her friends were worldwide, and they were never lost, she kept them all. If you were her friend it was forever.

But it was here in Monterey that I think she found her place. The Somers family had decades long ties to Monterey. The family's presence spanned four generations, and there are houses here in town that, even though they have changed hands, are reminders of the Somers' name. It was Arthur's grandfather that brought the family to Monterey. He built the big

white Georgian colonial on Route 23 at the corner of the road to Lakeview Terrace, and owned the cottage and the property behind it. He also purchased and then sold Rock Ridge, years before it was repurchased by Alice and Arthur.

Alice was the last of the Somers family to be active in Monterey. She and Arthur once owned Peggy's Folly on Beartown Mt. Road and lived and owned property on Fairview Road. But they particularly built their sense of community here when they purchased Rock Ridge on Tyringham Road, now owned by Ginny and Bob Duffy. Alice called it a House of Celebration, and they shared it with the town for community events and made it a true house of celebration. Two of my daughters were married at Rock Ridge, and there were many others whose traditional family gatherings took place there.

But it is the little Catholic chapel, Our Lady of the Hills, on Beartown Mt. Road that will most remind us of Alice. This was built in 1928 and given to the Diocese by the same grandfather in memory of his wife, Virginia Lawrence. Prior to the building of the little chapel, Catholic Mass was held in a tent on the property, which was owned by a Fr. Hughes from Yonkers, New York, who lived in the house next door, much smaller then and now owned by Alice Howell. The chapel is open in the summer on Saturday evenings for Mass.

It was particularly fitting that on May 22nd we celebrated Alice's time with us in the chapel of Our Lady of the Hills. Alice loved the chapel, and the flowers on the altar that day, her favorite

Contributors

We are grateful to the following readers for recent contributions to support the *Monterey News*. Thanks, folks.

Laura Dubester & Alan Silverstein
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Richard Pargament
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calla lilies, were in the vases she chose for the chapel and which she loved to fill and arrange with flowers before each Mass in the summer. Our Lady of the Hills is there for us all to visit and remember Alice and Arthur.

Alice reached out, raised us up, and loved us all. We have been truly blessed by her presence among us. Her spirit and memory will remain with us.

— Georgiana O'Connell

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Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.–noon, Town Offices.

Wednesday, June 2: Full Moon

Saturday, June 5: Household Hazardous Waste collection, 9-12 noon at Lee DPW Yard, Railroad St., Lee. For information call CET at 1-800-238-1221

Sunday, June 6: Volunteer Docent Training at Bidwell House Museum, 3-4:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 10: Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Friday, June 11: Monterey Democratic Town Committee hosting a meeting for all interested, 7 p.m. in Meeting-house basement. See p.11.

Monday, June 14: Flag Day

Saturday, June 19: Lake Garfield Assoc. Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at the Firehouse.

Sunday June 20: Father's Day

Monday, June 21: Summer Solstice

Wednesday, June 23: Free concert at The Bidwell House Museum. Traditional Music of the British Isles, 6-7:30 p.m. See p. 6.

Friday, June 25: Monterey Historical Society presents a talk by Heather Oakes on treasures of The Bidwell House Museum, 7 p.m. in the Knox Museum wing of the Monterey Library. See p. 4.

Saturday, June 26:

Watercolor Painting workshop with Brian O'Grady at The Bidwell House Museum, 12-3 p.m. Pre-register, \$35 per

person. Limited to 10 participants. Call 413-528-6888. See p. 5.

"Chardonnay Soiree" Summer Cocktail Party to benefit The Bidwell House Museum, 5-7 p.m. Call 413-528-6888 for info.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Jim Gregory. All dances are taught, beginners and children are welcome. Adults \$6, children \$3. Information 528-9385.



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The Observer

April 26–May 25

High temp. (5/13) 85°
Low temp. (5/5) 28°
Avg. high temp. 68.9°
Avg. low temp. 43.6°
Avg. temp. 56.3°
Total rainfall 4.7"
Precipitation occurred on 19 days.

Personal Notes

Congratulations to Liz and Jesse Goodman on the birth of a son, Tobias, on Friday, April 30. Tobias weighed in at a bit over 8 pounds.

Congratulations also to Jon Sylbert and Lisa Smyle on the recent birth of their second son, Sean, who joins brother Evan.

Christina Vallianos, daughter of Evelyn and Peter, has earned the honor of being the salutatorian of the Class of 2004 of Mount Everett Regional High School. Chrissy, a scholar and an athlete, will attend the University of California in Berkeley.

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